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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,157	12/30/2003	Gurjeet K. Jaggi	03855 (3883.00030)	7847

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EXAMINER

ORTIZ, ANGELA Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/749,157

Applicant(s)

JAGGI, GURJEET K.

Examiner

Angela Ortiz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Moffitt et al., USP 5,919,324 for the reasons cited in the previous office action.

The cited reference teaches the claimed method of forming a trim panel pre-form including providing a pair of die halves 36, 48 wherein one surface defines an A-side and the other defines a B-side of the finally molded panel, wherein one of the mold halves has a plurality of recesses. A skin layer 32 and an insert 26 are brought together within the mold cavity, wherein the skin layer 32 has a class A-surface and the insert is provided with an adhesive layer 26A for bonding to the injected resin 50. See col. 2, lines 30-50, 55-65; col. 3, lines 1-15.

Note that foam inherently generates pressure upon expansion of the material, and thus the mold must be clamped at a pressure greater than that generated by the foam to perform the molding in a closed mold. Nonetheless, such would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to so include for ensuring a high quality molded panel.

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With respect to claim 2, note that it is inherent that the foam is finally cured to form the substrate, see col. 3, lines 10-20; nonetheless, such would have been obvious for producing a finally formed composite panel.

With respect to claim 3, see col. 2, lines 40-42 and figure 2A.

With respect to claims 4 and 6, see col. 2, lines 60-68.

With respect to claim 5, see col. 2, lines 35-45 wherein the heated skin activates the adhesive material.

With respect to claims 7-8, and as is best understood by the term "bond line reveal", note that the use of tucks forms edges 44 of the insert, and the bending of the skin around the tucks hides the bond site. See col. 3, lines 1-20.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed June 9, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the cited reference does not teach a trim panel where the formed rigid substrate defines the class-A side of the panel assembly, or forming the class-A side by injecting a thermoplastic material into a mold cavity, or bonding a contact surface to the substrate.

Note that claim 1 does not set forth the limitation of "the formed substrate defining the class-A side of the assembly", but rather sets forth "forming a rigid substrate having an A-side surface visible to the interior of a vehicle when secured to a vehicle door", and it is this limitation which is set forth in the applied reference at col. 2,

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lines 60-67. Note further that the limitation of “forming the class-A side by injecting a thermoplastic material into a mold cavity” is not an equivalent alternative to the claimed limitation of “forming a rigid substrate having an A-side surface visible to the interior of a vehicle when secured to a vehicle door in said mold cavity by injecting a molten thermoplastic material ...”; the former limitation sets forth forming the class-A side by injecting, and the latter sets forth forming a substrate having an A-side surface. The use of “A-side surface” is also not limited to “class-A side”.

The newly claimed limitation of a “contact surface” is readable on the area of the pre-form that makes contact with the injected thermoplastic material. Thus, the newly set forth feature does not necessarily further limit, as the reference meets the feature as foam 50 contacts the surface of the skin layer and bonds upon contact.

While applicant argues that the method of the applied reference is different from the claimed method, note that the breadth of the instant claims read on the prior art the applicant has not shown how the amendments avoid such references or objections, or preclude such rejections.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

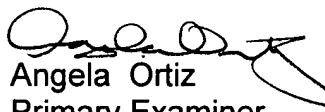
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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela Ortiz whose telephone number is 571-272-1206. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaiani can be reached on 571-272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Angela Ortiz  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1732

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